

FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH

The VOICE

December 2018

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*CHOIR CHRISTMAS
MUSICAL & CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE*

SUNDAY, DEC. 16
5 PM

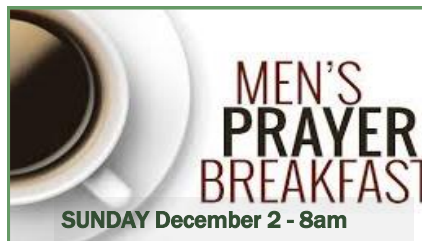
When We Meet:

Sundays

9:15a Sunday School
10:30a Worship

Wednesdays

5:30p Fellowship Meal
Prayer Meeting
AWANA
Youth Study



FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH
exists to
glorify GOD
in all things.



From Our Pastor

Luke 2:8–11 (ESV) ⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of **GREAT JOY** that will be **FOR ALL THE PEOPLE**. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Ebenezer Scrooge mumbled “humbug” at every encounter with a joyful soul at Christmas. The Grinch absolutely despised the entire Christmas season because he had a heart that was two sizes too small. Both stories reveal a tragic loss of the joy of Christmas from two different perspectives. I submit to you that our culture has suffered the same fate. Even Christians are worn out, weary, and depressed well before the Christmas season begins. Instead of singing Christmas Carols, we are mumbling our Christmas Complaints. Instead of spreading good tidings of Christmas cheer, we share the juicy gossip of the latest smear. We desperately need a fresh glimpse of the glory of the Lord to remind us of what Christmas is truly about.

Notice that the Angels brought the declaration of “good news” and “great Joy”. Perhaps Christians have forgotten the potency of the message of salvation. Paul said the gospel is the **POWER OF GOD** (1 Cor. 1:18). One thing you can be certain of—the shepherds were never the same! They saw Angels, the Glory of God, and the Angelic hosts singing Hallelujah! Then, in hopeful expectation, ran to the place where the Child from Heaven was laid. Oh, how I wish I had been there! Two things we share in common with the Shepherds: 1) we are invited to see what they saw, and 2) we are invited to share what they shared. Christmas is time for your eyes to be opened to the glory of God, and your hands and feet to move toward others with good news of Jesus on your lips.

I was recently reminded that at FBC Ferriday, we count people because people **COUNT!** Both Scrooge and the Grinch needed a reminder of the love they had been shown at Christmas and that **PEOPLE COUNT TO GOD**. So, this Christmas, let me invite you to look up and see the Glory of Jesus Christ radiating in the heavens. Look around and meet the needs of those around you both spiritually and physically. Lastly, when you have done these first two regularly and consistently, look in the mirror and you will see that, at long last, the **JOY** of Christmas has found you.

Merry Christmas!

Bro. Josh

Upcoming Opportunities

Sun. Dec. 2 - 8am Men's Prayer Breakfast

Wed. Dec. 5 - 5:30pm Fellowship Meal (TJ Batey class in charge - menu: spaghetti)

Sun. Dec. 9 - 5pm Deacons' Christmas Ministry Supper

Wed. Dec. 12 - 5:30pm Fellowship Meal (DBatey class in charge - menu: fried chicken)

Thurs. Dec. 13 - 11am WMU Meeting and Potluck Lunch

Sun. Dec. 16 - 5pm Choir Christmas Musical and Candlelight Service

Wed. Dec. 19 - 5:30pm Fellowship Meal (Colvin class in charge- menu: hamburgers); Business Meeting after Prayer Meeting

Office will be closed December 24-January 1

Sun. Dec. 30 - Lord's Supper at morning service

Wed. Jan. 2 - 5:30pm Fellowship Meal (TJ Batey class in charge menu: spaghetti)

JOIN US FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES AT 5:30PM AND ENJOY A MEAL! COST IS \$3 PER PERSON OR A MAXIMUM OF \$10 PER FAMILY

From Our Music Minister

Okay , so this could be a random collection here, but it is probably important stuff and needs to be said. UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDERS AND HE SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL, COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE OF PEACE. It is Christmas time and our stress load always seems to out distance our faith quota so stress raises its ugly head. I'm zooming on some words I tend to lose sight of that the original Christmas message tended to think pretty important. FEAR NOT. Easier said than done. JOY. Not just Joy, but GREAT JOY. Easier when I was a child, but then my parents were amazing Christians and they lived Christ in front of me, which means I didn't have to FEAR and could focus on the Joy. Not everyone has that testimony. That makes me sad for them, but what really scares me is this. Will YOUR kids have that testimony? Are YOU 100% committing yourself to making sure they know the Christ of Christmas instead of the cost of the gift you are buying them?

As for that government thing, you do know it wasn't just the Roman or Israeli government, right. As we fight it out in America these days, I am convinced we have forgotten on whose shoulders it rests. Trump may be president to your joy or dismay, but JESUS is Lord regardless of who sits behind the desk. THAT, my friend should give you JOY.

Before I get too carried away with my lessons learned here, I just want to say these things. I thank God for you in my life. We aren't the perfect church, but you are the perfect church for me. I love you all and wish for you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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Who is Doing What in December

	Dec. 2	Dec. 9	Dec. 16	Dec. 23	Dec. 30
Money Counter	Bill Colvin	Jane Webb	Craig Jackson	Rynn Tyler	Eddie Crow
Building Patrol	Wayne Roberts	Dennis LaRavia	Pat Hipp	Robbie Hargis	Mark Welch
Benediction	Dennis LaRavia	Bill Beasley	Leslie Wooten	Pat Hipp	Lord's Supper
Offertory Prayer	Butch Hosea	Curtis Savoy	H. L. Irvin	Layne Washington	Randy Maxwell
SS Nursery	Susan Price	Catherine Dodd	Gloria Beasley		Jordan Morea
Worship Nursery	Sherry Harmon Peggy Wood Kimmie Wike	Susan Grayson Cheryl Colvin Paige Welch	Freda Williams Mindy Morris Jenny Gibson	Diane Sass Sylvia Johns Mary C. Blaylock	Jamie Hargis Hazel Goodwin Janice Rogers
Children's Church	Mindy Morris Dina Haines	Jordan Morea Al;lison Morea	Susan Grayson Stacey Burnham	Mike White Erin Jackson	Ann Burley Angela Jackson

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From Our Student Minister

Ephesians 4:14 says, “then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit.” Of course, Paul’s description of how young people were in his time is still true today. The youth of this generation are tossed and blown around by every wind of teaching. They are not only taught various different things in school and sometimes even in churches, but they are also encouraged to seek out different perspective. They are told that we should “love others” which is somehow flipped into accepting and condoning unrighteous and immoral ways of life. The commandments of Jesus are to love God and love people. Loving people means to *compassionately* and *righteously* seek the WELL BEING of another. We love others by applying God’s truth to others. The very next verse of Paul to the Ephesians says, “But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into Him who is the head – Christ.” Verse 29 says to speak “what is good for building up someone in need.” Society does not need our acceptance of unrighteousness, It needs to be compassionately delivered the Gospel. Our teenagers need to stand firm on the truth of the Gospel and apply it into the world instead of being deceived by the world.

Jesse Morea

Student Minister

FBC Ferriday

Office: 318-757-4524

Cell: 817-781-0875

December Birthdays

Dec. 2 - Michael Burley	Dec. 15 - Stephanie Sandroock, Jesse Morea,
Dec. 3 - Gary Gibson	Jordan Morea
Dec. 5 - Roselinda Maxwell	Dec. 18 - Carolyn McCollum, Leah Ready,
Dec. 6 - Patricia Merrill, Diane Sass	Roy Lance
Dec. 7 - Jan Rabb, Emily McClure	Dec. 20 - Pattee Bagbey
Dec. 8 - Jean Miller	Dec. 21 - Mary-Margaret Bamburg
Dec. 9 - Mark Welch	Dec. 23 - Ramona Roberts
Dec. 10 - Noah White	Dec. 24 - Ashley Thornhill
Dec. 11 - Bill Colvin, Tam Corbett	Dec. 29 - Polly Miley
Dec. 12 - Cager Dison	Dec. 30 - Betty Walters
Dec. 14 - Maddi White, Ella Burnham	

Mission Statement

To make disciples of all people by sharing the Good News of Jesus, starting in Ferriday.